



CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Camberwell Community Council held on Wednesday 21 November 2012 at 7.00 pm at Heartbeat International, 3 - 15 Brisbane Street, Camberwell, London SE5 7NL

PRESENT: Councillor Norma Gibbes (Chair)
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Kevin Ahern
Councillor Stephen Govier
Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT: Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton

OFFICER

SUPPORT: Jessica Caruth, Project Manager
Sally Crew, Transport Planning Team
Angie Meehan, Housing Services
Jay Akinola Daisi, Revenue & Benefits Development Officer
Jo Skelton, Community Wardens Team Leader
Grace Semakula, Community Council Development Officer
Tim Murtagh, Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed councillors, members of the public and officers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter John.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair announced that maps for Item 16 had been circulated as part of Supplemental

Agenda No. 1.

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors made the following declaration in relation to:

16. Cycle Permeability Scheme

Councillor Stephen Govier, non pecuniary interest as he is a member of the London Cycling Campaign and Southwark Cyclists.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair made the following announcements:

Local Historian

John Beasley, a local author was in attendance. He had recently written a book about the history of Peckham.

Camberwell Youth Centre

A new Camberwell youth centre would be opening on 26 January 2013. It would be based at the Camberwell Leisure Centre.

Youth Restoration Fund

The deadline for applications for the Youth Restoration Fund was 14 December 2012. Southwark had £100,000 to allocate to organisations for projects for local young people.

Cleaner Greener Safer 2013/14

The Cleaner Greener Safer Capital Fund 2013/14 was open for applications until Friday 30 November 2012.

Community Council Fund 2013/14

The Community Council Fund 2013/14 was open for people to apply to fund local activities. Awards of between £100 and £1,000 were available. The closing date for applications was 14 December 2012.

New Corporate Complaints Policy consultation

Consultation was taking place on the new corporate complaints policy. Angie Meehan, Housing Services, was in attendance to deal with resident's questions. Part of the proposals involved replacing the current three-stage model with a two-stage model. The deadline for responses to the consultation was Friday 1 February 2013 at 5pm.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

New Borough Commander

John Sutherland, Borough Commander, introduced himself to the meeting. He explained that he was previously a police sergeant in Peckham in the 1990s. He was optimistic about the challenges that lay ahead.

The Borough Commander outlined how the Metropolitan Police had to save over £500 million from its budget over the next two and a half years. It would have an impact on police stations and public access over counters but he hoped to maintain front line police services in Southwark for the foreseeable future.

In response to questions, Commander Sutherland said that:

- Hate crime in all forms was unacceptable and would be dealt with. In addition there were officers specially trained at dealing with the victims of hate crime.
- Major savings were unlikely to come from front line street officer numbers being reduced and was more likely to come from reductions in senior posts and the sale of buildings. There would be changes to the support functions that operate behind the scenes.
- Police buildings in London were now owned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). MOPAC would decide on any sales or disposals. In addition to police stations, in future there would be some pop-up / temporary police facilities at local spaces advertised in advance to the community.
- He was committed to working in partnerships with the Council and residents. There would be a strong effort to tackle the problems of youth violence and gangs.

The chair thanked the Borough Commander and invited him to return to future meetings.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Sergeant Tom Leach, Brunswick Park and South Camberwell Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) gave the following updates for each ward:

Camberwell Green

- Officers had been working in partnership with local betting shops to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and drug dealers. Several known individuals had been excluded from betting shops which had reduced the problem in Camberwell Green.
- There had been nine arrests related to drug dealing and a crack house was

closed down.

- Street drinking had led to more than one hundred seizures of alcohol by officers.

Brunswick Park

- Dangerous dogs had been tackled via a dog watch partnership with the council called Operation Bark.
- Officers were working with young people and an organisation called Catch-22 to divert young people away from possible gang involvement.
- There had been eight arrests for drug offences in the ward.
- PC Liam Morrow had recently joined Brunswick Park SNT.

South Camberwell

- PC David Olley and PC Malcolm Gillespie had joined the team since the Olympics.
- PC Olley organised the cadets at Alleyn School on Thursday evenings, which helped to reduce local ASB.
- In South Camberwell there were 52 neighbourhood watch schemes and officers gave crime prevention advice to those groups.
- A cannabis factory on the East Dulwich estate had been raided and several arrests were made.

In response to questions, Sgt Leach said that begging was an arrestable offence and a blight on the area. The public should contact officers who would deal with it.

Community Wardens

Jo Skelton, Community Wardens Team Leader, explained that team capacity would soon double to six wardens covering the Camberwell area. Wardens worked mainly in three strands: environmental crime reporting, tackling anti-social behaviour and issuing penalty notices for things such as fly-tipping and dog fouling. The focus of their work was about to shift a little away from the town centres and more towards the housing estates. Community wardens, as part of their duties, visited burglary victims and vulnerable adults during the winter period.

In response to a question regarding unauthorised advertising / billboards on pavements, Jo said he would follow that up and take action to deal with the problem.

9. WELFARE REFORMS PRESENTATION

Jay Akinola Daisi, Revenue & Benefits Service Development Officer, explained that part of his role was to implement the major changes to benefits that were imminent. He made the following points:

- Most benefits would be reformed in some way. The Council was responsible for administering council tax benefit and housing benefit.
- A universal credit scheme was scheduled for 2013. The idea was to simplify and introduce one benefit that would encompass housing benefit, income support, child benefit and others together.
- A benefit cap would be introduced in April 2013. It would limit the total sum of benefits to £500 per week for a household or £350 for a single person.
- Housing benefit would be restricted for council and housing association tenants depending on the number of rooms a household needed. About 3,000 of Southwark's 21,000 council tenants would be affected by the changes.
- Council tax benefit would be replaced by a new system whereby every local authority would have to develop a new way of managing people on low incomes.
- The council was writing to affected residents, starting with the most vulnerable and inviting them to contact the council advice centres to discuss options. The benefit changes would not affect those of pensionable age.

In response to questions, Jay gave the following replies:

- Not everyone affected would be on housing benefit. Downsizing of property would be the best option for some tenants and a higher priority would be given to those who did so.
- He would be willing to speak to affected groups and those with concerns about the benefit changes. He had already been to thirty public events to discuss the reforms.

Councillors thanked Jay for his presentation and expressed concern about the impact the changes would have on Southwark residents.

10. CAMBERWELL GREEN LINKS

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors noted the information in the report and supported the following:

- Proposals to improve access to Burgess Park for pedestrians and cyclists via Bowyer Place.
- The loss of one parking space on Lomond Grove due to footway widening.

11. CAMBERWELL LIBRARY UPDATE

Councillor Veronica Ward, Cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport, the Olympics and Regeneration (South) explained that consultation on the new library was ongoing. The site in front of the magistrates' court was the only site being considered. The library would provide educational resources for everyone, a study space, access to IT and information about available council services. The views of local residents were sought on various options which would be firmed up over the weeks ahead.

In response to questions, Councillor Ward made the following points:

- There had never been an alternative site for the library. There wasn't one available in the centre of Camberwell. Many people were waiting for the new library to be built and opened.
- The new library meant the council would not have to pay around £100,000 per year in rental fees.

Jessica Caruth, Project Manager, responding to questions made the following points:

- The money for the library project was from the council's capital fund. Cabinet had approved £1.9 million to be set aside. Along with the new library there would be improvements to the public realm in the vicinity of the building.
- The options on the display boards took into account the amount of space needed for the library. The library would be open plan and all on one level.

12. CIVIC AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Councillor Ian Wingfield explained that he was presenting the item on behalf of the Southwark Civic Association (SCA).

The SCA was an independent organisation made up of individuals and groups representing local businesses, heritage groups and the community. Its main objective was to promote the borough in terms of its civic pride. It was founded in 1997 and there was an annual service each May at St George's Cathedral. Civic awards were made to individuals or organisations who the SCA considered had made a significant contribution during the course of the year to the interests of the borough. Examples of actions that might lead to a civic award included: an act of courage, some innovation or the promotion of community cohesion.

For more information contact: The Mayor's Office, Tel. 020 7525 7303
Closing date: 31 January 2013.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to a public question about negotiations with Transport for London (TfL) regarding hanging baskets, the chair said that officers would provide a written response.

A resident who had waited nearly two months for a receipt for a parking permit, despite numerous requests, asked that a receipt be automatically provided for such a payment. Councillors noted the question.

In response to a public question about the possible closure of local fire stations including Peckham's, Councillor Wingfield said members were totally opposed to the closure of any fire station in the borough. With Lakanal House based in Peckham – where many died in a tragic fire - there was a strong reminder of the importance of a local fire station.

In response to a re-submitted written question regarding Cleaner Greener Safer funding, the chair asked that a written reply be sent by the relevant officer.

14. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Following the earlier discussions around the new library for Camberwell and the project's links with other planned regeneration improvements in the area, the community council considered whether to submit a question to the next Council Assembly meeting and agreed the following:

“Can the Council provide an update on the regeneration plans for Camberwell.”

15. CLEANER GREENER SAFER: FUNDING REALLOCATION

Note: This is an executive function.

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That an under spend totalling £24,700 from the following four projects be noted:
 - Peckham Road Shopping Parade
 - New Street Lights in Artichoke Place
 - Camberwell Green Open Air Art Gallery
 - Camberwell Green Park additional table tennis facilities

2. That £11,820 of the Cleaner Greener Safer 2012/13 Capital fund be reallocated to the following three projects:
 - Camberwell Gardens Community Allotment Project (£820)
 - Glebe Estate Multi-Games Refurbishment (£9,000)
 - Additional Fence to Communal Garden on Dylways (£2,000)

16. CYCLE PERMEABILITY SCHEME

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following comments be reported back to officers:

Councillors supported the proposed cycle permeability schemes listed for Camberwell, contained in the report with the exception of Love Walk. Love Walk should not be included for reasons highlighted in the consultation.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

CHAIR:

DATED: